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ELLESMERE URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1946.

ELLESMERE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1946. The Minister of Health has directed that the report be prepared on the lines of that for 1945 so it will not assume its pre-war comprehensiveness.

The report includes notes by the Sanitary Inspector on matters with which he is most particularly concerned; for his co-operation and help during the year I wish to express my thanks.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

L. WILSON EVANS.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office Held.	Whole or Part Time.
L. Wilson Evans	M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part Time.
W.H. Davis	M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.	Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.	Whole.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area.....1,206 acres.

Number of inhabited houses..... 580

Rateable value.....£10,750

Sum represented by penny rate.....£41-£42

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Estimated population..... 1927

Births:-	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	13	11	24
Illegitimate	2	2	4
Total	15	13	28

Birth Rate per 1000 population	14.5
Birth Rate per 1000 population Ellesmere Rural District	16.7
Birth Rate per 1000 population England and Wales	19.1

Still Births	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	-	1

Still birth rate per 1000 population	0.53
Still birth rate per 1000 population Ellesmere Rural District	0.29
Still birth rate per 1000 population England and Wales	0.53

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	-	1	1

Infant mortality rate, i.e. deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 births	35
Infant mortality rate Ellesmere Rural District	69
Infant mortality rate England and Wales	43

Deaths	M.	F.	Total
	11	24	35

Death rate per 1000 population	18.3
Death rate per 1000 population Ellesmere Rural District	14.5
Death Rate per 1000 population England and Wales	11.5

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
Heart Disease	4	6
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	1	5
Cancer	1	4
Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	2	1
Pneumonia	-	1
Road Traffic	1	-
Influenza	-	1
Tuberculosis	-	1

The estimated population is 10 more than last year but owing to the excess of deaths over births there was a natural decrease in the population of 7.

The number of deaths are again higher than the average for recent years due to higher mortality among women. The most significant figures are those for women under seventy dying from degeneration of the cardio-vascular system, nearly half of the female deaths coming into this category. The deaths among men are less than half those of women and considerably below the average. There was no death as a result of childbirth nor from infectious diseases. There was one infant death.

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PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notification of Infectious Disease.

Ages.	Measles. M.	Measles. F.	Scarlet Fever. M.	Scarlet Fever. F.
0-1	-	-	-	-
1-3	1	2	-	-
3-5	4	2	-	-
5-10	12	7	-	-
10-15	-	-	-	1
15-25	-	-	-	-
25 and over	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	1	-	-
	17	12	-	1

The outbreak of Measles which lasted over a period of six weeks was started by a child who had been away on holiday developing the disease soon after her return. It was a mild form and no child was seriously ill. For the sixth consecutive year it is gratifying to be able to report that there was no case of Diphtheria.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

	Under 5 years.	5-14 yrs.	Total
Number of children immunised during the year	28	3	31
Percentage of child population considered to be immunised at December 31st, 1946	50%	77%	
Number of children receiving re-inforcing doses	4.		

There was some increase in the number of children under 5 years to be immunised but a falling off of the older children. It is to be hoped that parents will not let the absence of Diphtheria in recent years lull them into a false sense of security. If Diphtheria should come there are still nearly 100 children among those under five years of age unprotected and so open to attack. The proportion

at present protected is not high enough to ensure that the town will continue free from a deadly disease. Just 10 years ago before the introduction of immunisation there were 15 cases of Diphtheria and 2 children died. If all parents do their part by taking the simpl and easy measure in protecting their children by immunisation such a visitation need never happen again.

Scabies.

There were no cases of Scabies reported during the year.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases.

Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
1	-	1	1

Deaths.

-	-	-	1

Number of cases on the Register at the end of 1946.

Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
4	5	5	5

Food.

In recent years there has been an increasing number of cases of illness where contamination of food has been the likely cause, and reports of outbreaks of food poisoning and such diseases as Typhoid and other enteric fevers have been ominously frequent. Insufficient and untrained staff, shortage of cleansing materials such as soap, and the effect of fuel restrictions on maintaining a good hot water supply may be contributiry causes and it behoves all those in charge of the preparation and storage of food to ensure that every possible precaution is taken to prevent contamination of the food. Their responsibility is a heavy one and it is very necessary that the public should demand clean and wholesome food

and ensure that they get it. The long period of shortages and difficulties in obtaining the food they want may have tended to make the vendors careless and casual and the purchaser less particular than she should be. Clean conditions of storage, cleanliness in the place of preparation, cleanliness of the utensils, cleanliness of the persons handling the food, and most important of all the need for frequent and careful washing of the hands, must be insisted upon if risks from dangerous diseases are to be avoided. In some parts of the Country investigations in kitchens and places where foods are prepared show that appreciation of the importance of these things is often lacking and increased supervision by the Health Authorities is needed to maintain a standard of safety for the public.

Ice Cream.

Ice cream has often come into the picture as a cause of the spread of disease, and the Heat Treatment Regulations to come into force on May 1st, 1947 are a step, although perhaps not a very long one, to reduce the risk of infection of the ice cream during preparation. Premises where ice cream is manufactured and stored have to satisfy certain requirements before they are registered. In a small town where the business perhaps is not very large, it is difficult to apply standards which could be reasonably enforced in larger places, but a certain minimum must be enforced and maintained, one of the essentials being that the preparation of ice cream should be carried out in a room not used for any other purpose.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Disinfections.

Number during the year..... 1

Meat and Foods Inspections.

Carcase Inspections. Ellesmere Smithfield and shops. 386

Made up as follows:	Bovines	66
	Sheep	292
	Calves	28

Whitchurch Abattoir 508

Made up as follows:	Bovines	65
	Sheep	359
	Calves	73
	Pigs	11

Total..... 894

Tinned Food Examined:

Whitchurch Meat Stores	23 tins meat.
Ellesmere District	156 tins various meats, fish and vegetables.

Condemnations.

Whole carcases and all offals	4 (3 bovine, 1 calf)
Tinned Meats	49 tins.
Tinned Fish	46 tins.
Tinned vegetables	52 tins.
Tinned milk	40 tins.
Wet and smoked fish	140 lbs.
Various Soft fruits	2,000 lbs.

HOUSING.

New Housing Programme.

Layout works to provide for the erection of 75 new houses have been

completed, so far as to enable house construction to proceed.

Thirty houses are in the course of erection, and are expected to be completed during the summer of 1947, and a start made on the erection of a further 45 houses.

House Inspections.....41

Number of houses for minor repairs.....39

Number overcrowded..... 2

Owing to the lack of building work during the war years, most houses are in need of repair to a greater or lesser extent, and this conditio will apply until such time as the supply of material and labour is more equal to the demand.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied by a piped system throughout, the water being obtained from the Liverpool Corporation mains.

The quality and quantity of the water has at all times been satisfacto in both respects. The houses which are supplied by a common standpipe are in Scotland Street, about 11 in number, otherwise the houses are supplied direct.

The population supplied by standpipe is about 50.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERS.

Apart from the housing site layout works, there has not been any extension of the sewerage system either in the sewers or at the sewage disposal works.

The Council still received the sewage from the Oteley camp, the sewage being delivered in the Church Street sewer by means of a pump located near the entrance to the camp site.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

These are kept under close observation for pollution, and any suspected sources are followed up and appropriately dealt with.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The district as a whole is on the water carriage system, only such exceptions existing are outside the scope of the system of sewers, or such as cannot be got into the sewers by reason of adverse ground conditions.

Number of privies..... 2

Number of pails..... 3

Number of cesspools..... 5

Cleansing in these types of sanitary accommodation is carried out by the occupier.

REFUSE TIPS.

Scavenging is done by a private contractor. There are two tips, Birch Road and Haughton. The system in use is open tipping, Haughton being used mainly for metallic refuse of the larger types. It would be a great advantage from a tipping control point of view if the Birch Road tipping ground belonged to the Council, instead of the Council being a sub-tenant of the tipping area.

Control of rat infestation is strictly maintained by the Council, gassing and baiting being regularly carried out by Council workmen.

No special steps were taken to deal with flies, except that an incinerator is used to destroy much putrescable matter which attracts and harbours flies.

BUG INFESTATIONS.

No bug infestations have been found.

MILK.

Retailers Licences.

Tuberculin Tested.....1

Accredited.....1

No. of T.T. sample reports received.....9

No. of accredited sample reports received.....3

Total 12

No. of reports satisfactory.....8

No. of reports unsatisfactory.....4

Total 12

No. remedied on repeat samples.....4

No. of retail purveyors on register.....4

No. of producers on the register.....7

No. of farms and other premises on register as dairies.....10

No. of visits.....14

No. of informal notices and letters..... 6

Many of the buildings used as cowsheds are of poor construction also the surroundings. In some cases no proper yards exist, while in others good yard surfaces have been provided.